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Donovan Defends Gross in Rights Dispute

By Joseph Michalak
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

The president of the Board of Education came to the defense yesterday of School Superintendent Calvin E. Gross, whose ouster has been called for by civil-rights groups.

James B. Donovan said that "Dr. Gross has the unanimous and enthusiastic support of the board" and that his actions had been "completely authorized by the board."

Mr. Donovan said that the board members have every confidence in Dr. Gross and in his ability to achieve an early and realistic accomplishment of the board's stated objectives in respect to integration.

On Tuesday, the chairman of the Citywide Committee for Integrated Schools, the Rev.

Milton A. Gayamison, had said that he would urge at a meeting tomorrow that five member organizations press for the removal or resignation of Dr. Gross.

At the same time, the Brooklyn chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, an affiliate of the Citywide Committee, called for the immediate removal of all nine members of Board of Education as well as of Dr. Gross.

Mr. Galamison, who was among 25 persons arrested during a sit-in demonstration at board headquarters on Monday, and CORE charged that Dr. Gross had broken promises on integration.

Mr. Galamison said Dr. Gross had committed himself in September to bringing about integration "in every

school district in the city by next September" as part of an agreement that headed off a threatened boycott at the start of the school year. "He has not attempted to meet this commitment," Mr. Galamison said.

Meanwhile, the Public Education Association, at a meeting of its trustees yesterday, gave a "unanimous vote of confidence" to the officials of the school system in their efforts to develop "workable and educationally sound

plans" for integrating the schools.

It commended the board and Dr. Gross for their "strong efforts" in overcoming the effects of segregation in jobs and housing through "positive educational programs."